

Many of our members have achieved and maintained high and enviable standards of conduct and we believe you qualify with the best.

We gather annually since November 25, 1932 to celebrate God's blessing of family harmony and unity. There are no dues and we are not autograph collectors . . . we are simply proud of our family and wish to include you in this honorary capacity.

Sincerely,

JOHN B. LEWIS Jr., *Esquire*.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARIO POON  
FOR RECEIVING A PERSONAL  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM  
THE HEALTHSOUTH REHABILITA-  
TION HOSPITAL OF ALTOONA

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Mario Poon, one of the winners of the 23rd annual Personal Achievement Award from the HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Altoona. This award is given to encourage and recognize those who have made an outstanding effort to deal with or overcome a disability. This year, Dr. Poon has earned that distinction.

Dr. Poon has been serving the community as a Cardiologist for the past 23 years. In this capacity, Dr. Poon is known for his tireless efforts to care for his patients. However, an unfortunate stroke landed him at the HealthSouth Rehab Hospital in July 2015. Dr. Poon began his rehabilitation requiring extensive assistance with activities like speaking and standing. But with hard work, he earned the freedom to return home.

Once transitioning to outpatient status, Dr. Poon maintained a great attitude and work ethic, as he focused on recovery. Along with his tenacious efforts, Dr. Poon has had the support and care of his wife, Amy, family, and friends. These factors have enabled him to regain his ability to walk without any devices. As such, he is back to traveling with his wife while still maintaining a commitment to his wellness program.

It is my pleasure to congratulate Dr. Poon on his successful progress. His accomplishments are a testament to us all that with hard work and persistence, we can overcome any hardship. I honor him for his perseverance, and I wish him the best as he continues to overcome this setback.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, on September 12, 2016, I was not present for roll call vote 496. If I had been present for this vote, I would have voted: Aye on roll call vote 496.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRETT GUTHRIE**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House September 12 through 13, 2016, due to prior family commitments. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call Number 496: Yea; Roll Call Number 497: Yea; Roll Call Number 498: Yea; Roll Call Number 499: Yea; Roll Call Number 500: Yea; Roll Call Number 501: Aye; Roll Call Number 502: Yea; Roll Call Number 503: Yea; Roll Call Number 504: Yea.

TRUCKERS AGAINST TRAFFICKING

**HON. TED POE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, modern day slavery is happening all around us, and it occurs in the form of human trafficking. Victims are sold into sex slavery, drugged, beaten, threatened and forced to engage in horrifying acts at the demand of their captors. While many Americans are aware that human trafficking occurs, most think it exists primarily in faraway countries. This assumption however, is wildly mistaken. Many of us do not realize that in this nation, and in our very own backyards, individuals are held against their will, their bodies sold repeatedly day in and day out. In every state, city and suburb traffickers prey upon the most vulnerable and chain them to a life of unimaginable misery. As Americans, we cannot turn a blind eye to this fact any more.

Human trafficking victims are constantly moved around by their traffickers, whether that's across our borders or around the country. This movement helps them evade law enforcement and increase profits by shuffling victims from buyer to buyer. With traffickers constantly on the road, who could possibly find and rescue these victims? Kylla Lanier asked herself that exact question several years ago when she set out to battle the scourge of human trafficking. It seemed insurmountable. Trafficking was everywhere, but then again she thought, so were truckers.

Kylla, her mother and three sisters went on to pioneer the anti-trafficking group, Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT). At 3.5 million strong, American truckers are an ideal ally in the war against trafficking. They have eyes and ears everywhere, from 12-lane freeways to dark back alleyways. The idea is simple. TAT trains truckers to spot potential trafficking operations or victims and report to a 24-hour hotline. These tips have already freed hundreds of trafficking victims, and as TAT continues to educate more truckers, we expect that number to rise. Due to the simplicity and success of this strategy, many trucking schools now teach trafficking prevention as part of their core curriculum.

I wholeheartedly applaud the efforts of Kylla and her family, as well as those of all the truckers who have joined this fight against trafficking. We should all learn from this success story, but truckers cannot do this alone. We

have a long road ahead of us in order to eradicate our country of modern day slavery. We must continue to raise awareness across all fields and in all parts of our society. The only way to defeat the evil of human trafficking is by banding together and working as one.

And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted: Roll Call Number 496, "yea."

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF  
JOSEPHINE COVELLI

**HON. TIM RYAN**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary woman. Josephine Covelli will celebrate a 90th birthday on September 30th, 2016. Josephine, or "Jo" as she is known to her family and friends, has been a fixture in her community for many years. Her passionate service has extended to the Trumbull Mobile Meals program, children's rehabilitation in Warren, Ohio as well as the Hibiscus House in Stuart. Beyond that Josephine has been heavily involved with her time, as well as through generous financial contributions in all children's services at Blessed Sacrament and JFK.

Along with service to her community, Jo knows how to relax. She has won more awards than anyone else in the history of the Trumbull County Country Club and has been highlighted in the papers for winning more tournaments than anyone else in the Valley—including two wins in the Amateur Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA).

Josephine is loved by her family and all those who are lucky enough to know her. In addition to thanking her for her service to our community, I would like to wish her the most wonderful 90th birthday surrounded by family and friends. We are a better community because of the great work of Josephine Covelli.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL  
DEBT

**HON. MIKE COFFMAN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$19,484,660,626,765.52. We've added \$8,857,783,577,852.44 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

## GENERAL LEAVE STATEMENT

**HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, on September 13, 2016, on Roll Call Number 498 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 859, Providing for consideration of H.R. 5620, the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 859.

On September 13, 2016, on Roll Call Number 499 on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 859, Providing for consideration of H.R. 5620, the VA Accountability First and Appeals Modernization Act of 2016, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 859.

On September 13, 2016, on Roll Call Number 500 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 858, providing for consideration of H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in the income threshold used in determining the deduction for medical care, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 858.

On September 13, 2016 on Roll Call Number 501 on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 858, providing for consideration of H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in the income threshold used in determining the deduction for medical care, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted NO on agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 858.

On September 13, 2016 on Roll Call Number 502 on passage of H.R. 3590, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the increase in the income threshold used in determining the deduction for medical care, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on agreeing to H.R. 3590.

On September 13, 2016 on Roll Call Number 503 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 5587, Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, I am not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted YES on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended, H.R. 5587.

On September 13, 2016 on Roll Call Number 504 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 729, Expressing support for the expeditious consideration and finalization of a new, robust, and long-term Memorandum of Understanding on military assistance to Israel between the United States Government and the Government of Israel, I am not recorded. Had I been present, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 729, I would have voted YES on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 729.

## WELCOME CHARLES JOSEPH DELL

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to congratulate my former

Chief of Staff Eric Dell and his wife, Torry, on the birth of their son. Charles Joseph Dell was born at 10:21 a.m. on Wednesday, August 17, 2016, at Inova Fairfax Hospital in Falls Church, Virginia. Charles weighed six pounds and eight ounces and measured 19 and 1/4 inches long. He is the second child for the happy couple and the younger brother of Noah Isaac Dell and I look forward to watching him grow as he is raised by talented parents who will be dedicated to his well-being and bright future.

I would also like to congratulate Charles's grandparents, Ouida Dell of Ridgeland, South Carolina, and Joseph and Mary Lyons of Aiken, South Carolina. Congratulations to the entire Dell and Lyons families as they welcome their newest addition of pure pride and joy.

## TRIBUTE TO GENE FREESE

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gene Freese of Atlantic, Iowa for his 50 years of dedicated service to the Atlantic Fire Department. Atlantic Fire Chief Mark McNees noted that Gene is a very active member of the department, going to trainings, responding to the required percentage of fire calls, and keeping current his Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification.

Gene Freese joined the Atlantic Fire Department because he "likes being a part of things, being active, and doing things for the community." He has been instrumental in conducting fire prevention programs for school students, educating countless youth and simultaneously helping educate his fellow firefighters. Gene said he appreciates all of the recognition, but acknowledges "it takes more than one person." He explained that firefighters do not seek out recognition for what they are, but instead, "they're just doing their job."

Mr. Speaker, Gene Freese has made a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize him today. I know that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in honoring his accomplishments. I thank him for his service to the Atlantic Fire Department and the City of Atlantic, Iowa and wish him continued success in the future.

## FLORIDA CITY GOVERNMENT WEEK

**HON. GWEN GRAHAM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Ms. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following:

Whereas, city government is the government closest to most citizens, and the one with the most direct daily impact upon its residents; and

Whereas, city government is administered for and by its citizens, and is dependent upon public commitment to and understanding of its many responsibilities; and

Whereas, city government officials and employees share the responsibility to pass along their understanding of this level of government and the importance of volunteerism; and

Whereas, Florida City Government Week is a very important time to recognize the important role played by city government in our lives; and

Whereas, this week offers an important opportunity to spread the word to all the citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence this branch of government and also shape their communities through volunteer efforts; and

Whereas, the Florida League of Cities and its member cities have joined together to teach students and other citizens about municipal government through a variety of different projects, volunteer opportunities and information; and

Whereas, Florida City Government Week offers an important opportunity to convey to all the citizens of Florida that they can shape and influence government through their civic involvement and positively impact lives by volunteering.

Now, therefore, I, Congresswoman GWEN GRAHAM, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing October 16–22, 2016 as City Government Week in Florida and I encourage our citizens to help celebrate this week by learning more about city government, and all levels of government, and by volunteering in their respective communities.

## TRIBUTE TO MCINTYRE REAL ESTATE AND AUCTION

**HON. DAVID YOUNG**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 14, 2016*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate McIntyre Real Estate and Auction of Shenandoah, Iowa, which is celebrating 70 years in business. McIntyre Real Estate and Auction was started in 1946 by Jesse McIntyre when he returned home from World War II.

Jessie McIntyre's daughter, Janell, is the current owner of the business. She joined the business in 1985 and purchased the business in 2000. Janell McIntyre and her staff continue to provide dedicated and professional real estate services throughout SW Iowa. That strong family tradition began with Jesse McIntyre and his lifelong commitment to his community. Although Jesse passed away in 2012, his successful business continues today.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and congratulate Janell McIntyre and the staff at McIntyre Real Estate for their many years of dedicated and devoted service to Shenandoah, Iowa and the surrounding areas Janell and her staff make a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize them today. I know that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring their accomplishments and wish them and their family and staff continued success in the future.